

In The Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at specification page 2, line 8 with the following amended paragraph:

There are preferably two guides, which are driven or screwed into the pedicles of vertebrae, or other bone. The various guides can be implanted into different bones, or different areas of the same bone. Since practical considerations will usually mean that the guides are not parallel to one another, the retractor has oversized channels to receive the guides. The channels can be circular in cross section, but are more preferably elongated into an oblong or other slotted shape.